The weakneſs cannot return any thing of ſtrength, honour, or ſafety to the head, but a *debilitation* and ruin. *K. Charles.*

DEBI'LITY. *n. ſ.* [*debilitas*, Latin.] Weakneſs; feebleneſs; languor; faintneſs; imbecillity.

Methinks I am partaker of thy paſſion,
And in thy caſe do glaſs mine own *debility*. *Sidney.*

Aliment too vaporous or perſpirable will ſubject it to the inconveniencies of too ſtrong a perſpiration, which are *debility*, faintings, and ſometimes ſudden death. *Arbuthn. on Alim.*

DEBONAIR. *adj.* [*debonnaire*, Fr.] Elegant; civil; well-bred; gentle; complaiſant.

Crying, let be that lady *debonair*,
Thou recreant knight, and ſoon thyſelf prepare
To battle, if thou mean her love to gain. *Fairy Queen.*

He met her once a maying,
There on beds of violets blue,
And freſh blown roſes waſh'd in dew,
Fill'd her with thee, a daughter fair,
So buckſom, blithe, and *debonair*. *Milton.*

The nature of the one is *debonair* and accoſtable; of the other, retired and ſupercilious; the one quick and ſprightful, the other ſlow and ſaturnine. *Howel's Vocal Foreſt.*

And ſhe that was not only paſſing fair,
But was withal diſcreet and *debonair*,
Reſolv'd the paſſive doctrine to fulfil. *Dryden's Nun's Prieſt.*

DEBONAIRLY. *adv.* [from *debonair.*] Elegantly; with a genteel air.

DEBT. *n. ſ.* [*debitum*, Latin; *dette*, French.]

1. That which one man owes to another.

There was one that died greatly in *debt*: well, ſays one, if he be gone, then he hath carried five hundred ducats of mine with him into the other world. *Bacon, Apophth.* 141.

The *debt* of ten thouſand talents, which the ſervant owed the king, was no ſlight ordinary ſum. *Duppa's Devotions.*

To this great loſs a ſea of tears is due;
But the whole *debt* not to be paid by you. *Waller.*

Above a thouſand pounds in *debt*,
Takes horſe, and in a mighty fret
Rides day and night. *Swift.*

2. That which any one is obliged to do or ſuffer.

Your ſon, my lord, has paid a ſoldier's *debt*;
He only liv'd but 'till he was a man,
But like a man he died. *Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.*

DE'BTED. *part.* [from *debt*. *To* DEBT is not found.] Indebted; obliged to.

Which do amount to three odd ducats more
Than I ſtand *debted* to this gentleman. *Shak. Com. of Errours.*

DE'BTOR. *n. ſ.* [*debitor*, Latin.]

1. He that owes ſomething to another.

I am *debtor* both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians, both to the wiſe and to the unwiſe. *Ro.* i. 14.

The caſe of *debtors* in Rome, for the firſt four centuries, was, after the ſet time for payment, no choice but either to pay, or be the creditor's ſlave. *Swift.*

2. One that owes money.

I'll bring your latter hazard back again,
And thankfully reſt *debtor* for the firſt. *Shak. Merch. of Ven.*

If he his ample palm
Should hap'ly on ill-fated ſhoulder lay
Of *debtor*, ſtrait his body, to the touch
Obſequious, as whilom knights were wont,
To ſome enchanted caſtle is convey'd. *Philips.*

There dy'd my father, no man's *debtor*;
And there I'll die, nor worſe, nor better. *Pope's Horace.*

3. One ſide of an account-book.

When I look upon the *debtor* ſide, I find ſuch innumerable articles, that I want arithmetick to caſt them up; but when I look upon the creditor ſide, I find little more than blank paper. *Addiſon's Spectator*, N°. 549.

DEBULLI'TION. *n. ſ.* [*debullitio*, Lat.] A bubbling or ſeething over. *Diet.*

DECACU'MINATED. *adj.* [*decacuminatus*, Latin.] Having the top cut off. *Diet.*

DE'CADE. *n ſ.* [δέκα, Gr. *decas*, Latin.] The ſum of ten; a number containing ten.

Men were not only out in the number of ſome days, the latitude of a few years, but might be wide by whole olympiads, and divers *decades* of years. *Brown's Vulgar Errours.*

We make cycles and periods of years; as *decades*, centuries, and chiliads, chiefly for the uſe of computations in hiſtory, chronology, and aſtronomy. *Holder on Time.*

All rank'd by ten; whole *decades*, when they dine,
Muſt want a Trojan ſlave to pour the wine. *Pope's Iliad.*

DECA'DENCY. *n. ſ.* [*decadence*, French.] Decay; fall. *Diet.*

DECAGON. *n. ſ.* [from δέκα, ten, and γωνία, a corner.] A plain figure in geometry, having ten ſides and angles.

DE'CALOGUE. *n. ſ.* [δεκάλογος, Greek.] The ten commandments given by God to Moſes.

The commands of God are clearly revealed both in the *decalogue* and other parts of ſacred writ. *Hammond.*

To DECAMP. *v. n.* [*decamper*, French.] To ſhift the camp; to move off.

DECA'MPMENT. *n. ſ.* [from *decamp.*] The act of ſhifting the camp.

To DECANT. *v. a.* [*decanto*, Lat. *decanter*, Fr.] To pour off gently by inclination.

Take *aqua fortis*, and diſſolve in it ordinary coined ſilver, and pour the coloured ſolution into twelve times as much fair water, and then *decant* or filtrate the mixture, that it may be very clear. *Boyle.*

They attend him daily as their chief,
Decant his wine, and carve his beef. *Swift.*

DECANTA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*decantation*, Fr.] The act of decanting or pouring off clear.

DECA'NTER. *n. ſ.* [from *decant.*] A glaſs veſſel made for pouring off liquor clear from the lees.

To DECAPITATE. *v. a.* [*decapito*, Latin.] To behead.

To DECAY. *v. n.* [*dechoir*, Fr. from *de* and *cadere*, Latin.] To loſe excellence; to decline from the ſtate of perfection; to be gradually impaired.

The monarch oak
Three centuries grows, and three he ſtays
Supreme in ſtate, and in three more *decays*. *Dryden.*

The garlands fade, the vows are worn away;
So dies her love, and ſo my hopes *decay*. *Pope.*

To DE'CAY. *v. a.* To impair; to bring to decay.

Infirmity, that *decays* the wiſe, doth ever make better the fool. *Shakeſpeare's Twelfth Night.*

Cut off a ſtock of a tree, and lay that which you cut off to putrefy, to ſee whether it will *decay* the reſt of the ſtock. *Bacon's Natural Hiſtory*, N°. 905.

He was of a very ſmall and *decayed* fortune, and of no good education. *Clarendon.*

Decay'd by time and wars, they only prove
Their former beauty by your former love. *Dryden.*

In Spain our ſprings, like old men's children, be
Decay'd and wither'd from their infancy. *Dryd. Ind. Emp.*

It is ſo ordered, that almoſt every thing which corrupts the ſoul *decays* the body. *Addiſon's Guardian*, N°. 120.

DECA'Y. *n. ſ.* [from the verb.]

1. Decline from the ſtate of perfection; ſtate of diminution.

What comfort to this great *decay* may come,
Shall be applied. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*

She has been a fine lady, and paints and hides
Her *decays* very well. *Pen. Johnſon's Catiline.*

And thoſe *decays*, to ſpeak the naked truth,
Through the defects of age, were crimes of youth. *Denham.*

By reaſon of the tenacity of fluids, and attrition of their parts, and the weakneſs of elaſticity in ſolids, motion is much more apt to be loſt than got, and is always upon the *decay*. *Newt.*

Each may feel encreaſes and *decays*,
And ſee now clearer and now darker days. *Eſſay on Criticiſm.*

Taught half by reaſon, half by mere *decay*,
To welcome death, and calmly paſs away. *Pope.*

2. The effects of diminution; the marks of decay.

They think, that whatever is called old muſt have the *decay* of time upon it, and truth too were liable to mould and rottenneſs. *Locke.*

3. Declenſion from proſperity.

And if thy brother be waxen poor, and fallen in *decay* with thee, then thou ſhalt relieve him. *Levit.* xxv. 35.

I am the very man,
That, from your firſt of difference and *decay*,
Have follow'd your ſad ſteps. *Shakeſpeare's King Lear.*

DEC'AYER. *n. ſ.* [from *decay.*] That which cauſes decay.

Your water is a ſore *decayer* of your whorſon dead body. *Shakeſpeare's Hamlet.*

DECEASE. *n. ſ.* [*deceſſus*, Lat.] Death; departure from life.

Lands are by human law, in ſome places, after the owner's *deceaſe*, divided unto all his children; in ſome, all deſcendeth to the eldeſt ſon. *Hooker, b.* i. *ſect.* 10.

To DECE'ASE. *v. n.* [*decedo*, Latin.] To die; to depart from life. *Diet.*

He tells us Arthur is *deceas'd* to-night. *Shakeſ. King John.*

You ſhall die
Twice now, where others, that mortality
In her fair arms holds, ſhall but once *deceaſe*. *Chapm. Odiſſ.*

His lateſt victories ſtill thickeſt came,
As, near the centre, motion doth increaſe:
'Till he, preſs'd down by his own weighty name,
Did, like the veſſal, under ſpoils *deceaſe*. *Dryden.*

DECEIT. *n. ſ.* [*deceptie*, Latin.]

1. Fraud; a cheat; a fallacy; any practice by which falſhood is made to paſs for truth.

My lips ſhall not ſpeak wickedneſs, nor my tongue utter *deceit*. *Job*, xxvii. 4.

2. Stratagem; artifice.

His demand
Springs not from Edward's well-meant honeſt love,
But from *deceit*, bred by neceſſity. *Shakeſpeare's Henry VI.*

3. [In law.] A ſubtile wily ſhift or deviſe; all manner of craft, ſubtilty, guile, fraud, willineſs, ſlightneſs, cunning, covin, colluſion, practice and offence, uſed to deceive another man by any means, which hath no other proper or particular name but offence. *Cowel.*

DECE'ITFUL. *adj.* [*deceit* and *full.*] Fraudulent; full of deceit.

I grant him bloody,
Luxurious, avaricious, falſe, *deceitful*,
Sudden, malicious, ſmacking of ev'ry ſin
That has a name. *Shakeſpeare's Macbeth.*

The lovely young Lavinia once had friends,
And fortune ſmil'd, *deceitful*, on her birth. *Thomſon's Autumn.*

DECE'ITFULLY. *adv.* [from *deceitful.*] Fraudulently; with deceit.

Exerciſe of form may be *deceitfully* diſpatched of courſe. *Wotton.*

DECE'ITFULNESS. *n. ſ.* [from *deceitful.*] The quality of being fraudulent; tendency to deceive.

The care of this world, and the *deceitfulneſs* of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. *Mat.* xiii. 22.

DECE'IVABLE. *adj.* [from *deceive.*]

1. Subject to fraud; expoſed to impoſture.

Man was not only *deceivable* in his integrity, but the angels of light in all their clarity. *Brown's Vulgar Errours, b.* i. *c.* 1.

How would thou uſe me now, blind, and thereby
Deceivable, in moſt things as a child
Helpleſs; hence eaſily contemn'd and ſcorn'd,
And laſt neglected. *Milton's Agoniſtes, l.* 938.

2. Subject to produce errour; deceitful.

It is good to conſider of deformity, not as a ſign, which is more *deceivable*, but as a cauſe which ſeldom faileth of the effect. *Bacon's Eſſays.*

He received nothing but fair promiſes, which proved *deceivable*. *Hayward.*

O everfailing truſt
In mortal ſtrength! And oh, what not in man
Deceivable and vain? *Milton's Agoniſtes, l.* 348.

DECE'IVABLENESS. *n. ſ.* [from *deceivable.*] Liableneſs to be deceived.

He that has a great patron, has the advantage of his negligence and *deceivableneſs*. *Government of the Tongue*, ſ. 8.

To DECE'IVE. *v. a* [*decipio*, Latin.]

1. To cauſe to miſtake; to bring into errour; to impoſe upon.

Some have been apt to be *deceived* into an opinion, that there was a natural or divine right of primogeniture to both eſtate and power. *Locke.*

2. To delude by ſtratagem.

3. To cut off from expectation.

The Turkiſh general, *deceived* of his expectation, withdrew his fleet twelve miles off. *Knolles's Hiſtory of the Turks.*

I now believ'd
The happy day approach'd, nor are my hopes *deceiv'd*. *Dryd.*

4. To mock; to fail.

They rais'd a feeble cry with trembling notes,
But the weak voice *deceiv'd* their gaſping throats. *Dryd. Æn.*

DECE'IVER. *n. ſ.* [from *deceive.*] One that leads another into errour; a cheat.

Sigh no more, ladies, ſigh no more;
Men were *deceivers* ever:
One foot in ſea, and one on ſhore;
To one thing conſtant never. *Shak. Much ado about Nothing.*

As for his diſmiſſion out of France, they interpreted it not as if he were detected, or neglected for a counterfeit *deceiver*. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

Thoſe voices, actions or geſtures, which men have not by any compact agreed to make the inſtruments of conveying their thoughts one to another, are not the proper inſtruments of deceiving, ſo as to denominate the perſon uſing them a lyar or *deceiver*. *South's Sermons.*

It is to be admired how any *deceiver* can be ſo weak to foretel things near at hand, when a very few months muſt of neceſſity diſcover the impoſture. *Swift's Predictions.*

Adieu, the heart-expanding bowl,
And all the kind *deceivers* of the ſoul. *Pope's Horace.*

DECE'MBER. *n. ſ.* [*december*, Latin.] The laſt month of the year; but named *december*, or the *tenth* month, when the year began in March.

Men are April when they woo, and *December* when they wed. *Shakeſpeare's As you like it.*

What ſhould we ſpeak of,
When we are old as you? When we ſhall hear
The rain and wind beat dark *December*. *Shakeſp. Cymbeline.*

DECE'MPEDAL. *adj.* [from *decempeda*, Latin.] Ten feet in length. *Diet.*

DECE'MVIRATE. *n. ſ.* [*decemviratus*, Lat.] The dignity and office of the ten governours of Rome, who were appointed to rule the commonwealth inſtead of conſuls. Their authority ſubſiſted only two years.

DE'CENCE. } *n. ſ.* [*decence*, French; *decet*, Latin.]
DE'CENCY. }

1. Propriety of form; proper formality; becoming ceremony.

Thoſe thouſand *decencies*, that daily flow
From all her words and actions. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.*

In good works there may be goodneſs in the general; but *decence* and gracefulneſs can be only in the particulars in doing the good. *Sprat's Sermons.*

Were the offices of religion ſtript of all the external *decencies* of worſhip, they would not make a due impreſſion on the minds of thoſe who aſſiſt at them. *Atterbury's Sermons.*

She ſpeaks, behaves, and acts juſt as ſhe ought;
But never, never reached gen'rous thought:
Virtue ſhe finds too painful an endeavour,
Content to dwell in *decencies* for ever. *Pope.*

2. Suitableneſs to character; propriety.

And muſt I own, ſhe ſaid, my ſecret ſmart?
What with more *decence* were in ſilence kept. *Dryden's Æn.*

The next conſideration, immediately ſubſequent to the being of a thing, is what agrees or diſagrees with that thing; what is ſuitable or unſuitable to it; and from this ſprings the notion of *decency* or indecency, that which becomes or miſbecomes. *South's Sermons.*

Sentiments which raiſe laughter, can very ſeldom be admitted with any *decency* into an heroick poem. *Addiſ. Spectat.*

3. Modeſty; not ribaldry; not obſcenity.

Immodeſt words admit of no defence;
For want of *decency* is want of ſenſe. *Roſcommon.*

DECE'NNIAL. *adj.* [from *decennium*, Latin.] What continues for the ſpace of ten years.

DECENNO'VAL. } *adj.* [*decem* and *novem*, Latin.] Relating
DECENNO'VARY. } to the number nineteen.

Meton, of old, in the time of the Peloponeſian war, conſtituted a *decennoval* circle, or of nineteen years; the fame which we now call the golden number. *Holder on Time.*

Seven months are retrenched in this whole *decennovary* progreſs of the epacts, to reduce the accounts of her motion and place to thoſe of the ſun. *Holder on Time.*

DE'CENT. *adj.* [*decens*, Lat.] Becoming; fit; ſuitable.

Since there muſt be ornaments both in painting and poetry, if they are not neceſſary, they muſt at leaſt be *decent*; that is, in their due place, and but moderately uſed. *Dryden.*

DE'CENTLY. *adv.* [from *decent.*] In a proper manner; with ſuitable behaviour; without meanneſs or oſtentation.

They could not *decently* refuſe aſſiſtance to a perſon, who had puniſhed thoſe who had inſulted their relation. *Broome.*

2. Without immodeſty.

Paſt hope of ſafety, 'twas his lateſt care,
Like falling Cæſar, *decently* to die. *Dryden's Ann. Mirab.*

He performs what friendſhip, juſtice, truth require;
What could he more, but *decently* retire? *Swift.*

DECEPTIBI'LITY. *n. ſ.* [from *deceit.*] Liableneſs to be deceived.

Some errours are ſo fleſhed in us, that they maintain their intereſt upon the *deceptibility* of our decayed natures. *Glanville.*

DECE'PTIBLE. *adj.* [from *deceit.*] Liable to be deceived; open to impoſture; ſubject to fraud.

The firſt and father cauſe of common errour, is the common infirmity of human nature; of whoſe *deceptible* condition, perhaps, there ſhould not need any other eviction than the frequent errours we ſhall ourſelves commit. *Brown.*

DECE'PTION. *n. ſ.* [*deceptie*, Latin.]

1. The act or means of deceiving; cheat; fraud; fallacy.

Being thus divided from truth in themſelves, they are yet farther removed by advenient *deception*. *Brown's Vulgar Err.*

All *deception* is a miſapplying of thoſe ſigns, which, by compact or inſtitution, were made the means of mens ſignifying or conveying their thoughts. *South's Sermons.*

2. The ſtate of being deceived.

Reaſon, not impoſſibly, may meet
Some ſpecious object by the foe ſuborn'd,
And fall into *deception* unaware. *Milton's Paradiſe Loſt.*

DECE'PTIOUS. *adj.* [from *deceit.*] Deceitful; apt to deceive.

Yet there is a credence in my heart,
That doth invert th' atteſt of eyes and ears;
As if thoſe organs had *deceptious* functions,
Created only to calumniate. *Shakeſpeare's Troil. and Creſſida.*

DECE'PTIVE. *adj.* [from *deceit.*] Having the power of deceiving *Diet.*

DECE'PTORY. *adj.* [from *deceit.*] Containing means of deceit. *Diet.*

DECE'RPT. *adj.* [*decerptus*, Lat.] Diminiſhed; taken off. *Diet.*

DECE'RPTIBLE. *adj.* [*decerpo*, Latin.] That may be taken off. *Diet.*

DECE'RPTION. *n. ſ.* [from *decerpt.*] The act of leſſening, or taking off. *Diet.*

DECERTA'TION. *n. ſ.* [*decertatio*, Latin.] A contention; a ſtriving; a diſpute. *Diet.*

DECE'SSION. *n. ſ.* [*deceſſio*, Latin.] A departure; a going away. *Diet.*

To DECHA'RM. *v. a* [*decharmer*, French.] To counteract a charm; to diſenchant.

Notwithſtanding the help of phyſick, he was ſuddenly cured by *decharming* the witchcraft. *Harvey on Conſumptions.*

To DECIDE. *v. a.* [*decido*, Latin.]

1. To fix the event of; to determine.

The day approach'd when fortune ſhould *decide*
Th' important enterprize, and give the bride. *Dryd. Fables.*

2. To determine a queſtion or diſpute.

In council oft, and oft in battle tried,
Betwixt thy maſter and the world *decide*. *Granville.*